

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 IO-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00

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INFO USMISSION USUN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4198

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN EXCLUSION FROM MIDEAST EMERGENCY FORCE

REF: (A) OSLO 4025 (B) USUN 4311 (C) OSLO 3959

1. INFORMATION ON HOW COMPOSITION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE-KEEPING FORCE WAS DECIDED WOULD BE USEFUL FOR OUR BACKGROUND IF AND AS SUBJECT ARISES IN CONVERSATIONS WITH NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS.

2. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC DISCUSSION HERE OF WHY NORWAY'S OFFER TO PARTICIPATE WAS NOT ACCEPTED, BUT PRIVATELY WE ARE HEARING CONCERNS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY AMBASSADOR AALGAARD IN NEW YORK (REF B). A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFFS THAT TOP DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE WORRIED ON TWO COUNTS. THE FACT THAT NORWAY HAS LONG HAD FORCES EARMARKED FOR UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS IS GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE MILITARY, AND NORWAY'S INTEREST IN PEACEKEEPING IS GENUINELY POPULAR AS AN EARNEST OF THE NORWEGIAN CONVICTION THAT UN EFFECTIVENESS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED. DEFENSE OFFICIALS ARE NOW WORRIED,
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WE ARE TOLD, ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO GET NECESSARY

FUNDS FOR KEEPING THESE EARMARKED FORCES IN STATE OF READINESS. IN ADDITION, THERE IS THE CONCERN MENTIONED BY ALLGAARD THAT ANTI-NATO ELEMENTS WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THE IDEA THAT NATO MEMBERSHIP MAKES NORWAY INTLIGIBLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE EFFECTIVE UN.

3. OUR SOURCE (VRAALSEN, CHIEF OF UN DIVISION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY) SAYS IT WAS THE SOVIETS WHO REFUSED TO ALLOW THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO ACCEPT FORCES FROM NATO NATIONS AND THAT SOVIETS WERE IRRITATED THAT SYG HAD INVITED CANADIANS WITHOUT GETTING SOVIET APPROVAL. BUT VRAALSEN ALSO UNDERSTANDS IT WAS PRIOR US REJECTION OF WARSAW PACTPARTICIPATION THAT SOVIETS USED ASRATIONALE FOR THEIR OWN POSITION. WE FRANKLY DOUBT THERE WILL BE MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE, BUT ON ASSUMPTION IT WILL COME UP AGAIN IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN FORMATION OF UNEF.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT OR USUN CABLE US A RESUME OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO CHOICE OF PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING OUR OWN AND SOVIET POSITIONS ON USE OF FORCES FROM WARSAW PACT AND NATO MEMBERS.
BYRNE

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